

**ATRIAL ARRHYTHMIAS, DIGITALIS AND POTASSIUM**—Bernard Lown, M.D., Research Associate in Medicine, Department of Nutrition, Harvard School of Public Health; Junior Associate in Medicine, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass., and Harold D. Levine, M.D., Senior Associate in Medicine, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass.; Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Landsberger Medical Books, Inc., 51 East 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., 1958. 220 pages, \$6.90.

This small monograph can be heartily recommended as an up-to-date account of the important relationship among atrial arrhythmias, digitalis and potassium. The book is an extension of the author's previous book published in 1954 and documents with case histories and frequent electrocardiograms the inter-relationships among the three factors noted in the title from a diagnostic and therapeutic standpoint. The authors are well known as having been among the leaders in emphasizing these relationships and, therefore, their work is highly authoritative as well as informative.

It is not clear to the reviewer why a new book was written rather than a revision of the old one, but perhaps this is due to the change in emphasis. There is a comprehensive bibliography of 198 references which is most valuable.

The binding of the volume presented for review was inferior, and it is hoped that the publisher corrects this in the future production.

The book can be highly recommended to all physicians.

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**REHABILITATION MEDICINE—A Textbook on Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**—Howard A. Rusk, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New York University-Bellevue Medical Center, New York, N. Y., and thirty-six collaborators, with the editorial assistance of Eugene J. Taylor, A.M. The C. V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1958. 572 pages, \$12.00.

This book actually represents the experiences and lessons learned in the management and rehabilitation of a rather vast array of disabilities by the staff of one of the largest and finest rehabilitation facilities in the world: The Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, with its associated rehabilitation services at Bellevue Hospital, Goldwater Memorial Hospital, University Hospital, and other rehabilitation facilities in New York City. The opinions and conclusions as to proper rehabilitative techniques are the results of over a decade of experience in this relatively new concept of medical management.

The book contains twenty-seven chapters, each dealing with a specific facet of rehabilitation or long-term management of chronic disease. Although all of these yield valuable contributions to the reader's knowledge of rehabilitation principles, some of them are outstanding. For example, the excellent chapter on rehabilitation nursing should be required reading for every student nurse or for any type of nursing training program. The average general duty nurse knows far too little about the special techniques of nursing care that is required by seriously disabled patients; for example, the paraplegic.

There is a chapter on braces, crutches and wheelchairs that could be an eye-opener to most physicians, regardless of specialty. As an example of this, the chapter points out the various types of wheelchairs and special modifications thereof to suit the particular needs of a disabled individual in terms of ease of locomotion, safety, transfer from wheelchair to a bed or toilet, and sitting comfort. Such factors, which can contribute so much to the welfare of a handicapped person, are largely ignored by physicians.

The chapter on training the disabled housewife or homemaker to function with maximum efficiency in the kitchen and home through the use of special adaptive devices and

aids should be most helpful to the public health or visiting nurse. Occupational therapists should also find this valuable. Social workers and vocational counselors will find chapters thirteen and fourteen very informative.

There is an excellent chapter on management and rehabilitative techniques for patients disabled by metabolic diseases. Of these, the portion of the chapter devoted to arthritis is outstanding.

In summary then, here is a most worthwhile book—an essential for the physician who directly is concerned with rehabilitation of the physically handicapped, be he physiatrist, neurologist, orthopedist, or internist; a most valuable source of information for the general practitioner, nurse, physical and occupational therapist, social worker, and all the various disciplines which participate in the rehabilitation of the physically disabled. Doctor Rusk, the author, and his collaborators are to be most highly commended for a concise and complete presentation of what the reviewer feels is a much needed work.

KARL E. CARLSON, M.D.

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**SOCIAL PSYCHIATRY IN ACTION—A Therapeutic Community**—Harry A. Wilmer, M.D., Ph.D., Captain, Medical Corps, United States Naval Reserve, Naval Medical Research Institute, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland; Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Stanford University (on military leave); foreword by Francis J. Braceland, M.D., Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Institute of Living, Hartford, Connecticut; preface by Rear Admiral Bartholomew W. Hogan, The Surgeon General, United States Navy. Charles C. Thomas, publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1958. 373 pages, \$8.75.

This is a rather interesting and well-written book describing the author's experience in operating the admission ward of a large Naval Hospital as a "therapeutic community." The main difference between the "therapeutic community" and any other psychiatric ward seems to be that there is a measure of self-government, and an opportunity for the patients and staff to meet on common ground for discussion of their problems. Dr. Wilmer maintains that this concept greatly improved the management of cases admitted to the hospital, although with the short stay that they had on the admission ward it is hard to evaluate this. One who knows Dr. Wilmer is more inclined to attribute any improvement to his understanding and enthusiasm, with attendant greater number of man-hours devoted to patient care, than to the system used; perhaps both played a part. The book should be of interest to psychiatrists and others having to do with the care of the mentally ill.

HENRY W. NEWMAN, M.D.

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**APPLIED PHYSIOLOGY OF THE EYE**—H. Willoughby Lyle, M.D., F.R.C.S.; assisted by E. Keith Lyle, C.B.E., M.A., M.D., M.Chir., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, London, 1958. Distributed by Williams & Wilkins Company, Mt. Royal & Guilford Aves., Baltimore 2, Md. 341 pages, \$9.00.

A small compact book well written by an English authority on this subject. The discussion of physiology also includes extensive neurological subject matter.

The new trend seems to be in brevity which in our rapidly moving age is becoming necessary.

The discussion of the higher center relationship including the auditovestibular system is excellent. The correlation of ocular, labyrinthine and neck reflexes is very interesting.

Newer concepts of allergy and the use of vitamins is discussed.

An interesting accessory is a list of works with their Greek derivation. Following this is a list of ophthalmological eponyms, which is quite good. A well worthwhile book.

ALFRED R. ROBBINS, M.D.